

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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TAGS: PFOR PINT IS

SUBJECT: RABIN STATEMENT REGARDING EGYPTIAN DEMOBILIZATION

REF: TEL AVIV 2402

FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF AN EXCERPT FROM FBIS REPORT
OF RABIN INTERVIEW REFERRED TO IN PARA 3 OF DEPARTMENT
SEPTEL ON THIS SUBJECT.
QUOTE

(QUESTION) WITH YOUR PERMISSION, SIR, I WOULD LIKE TO
TOUCH UPON EGYPT. SIX MONTHS HAVE GONE BY SINCE THE SIGN-
ING OF THE INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT. IS EGYPT LIVING
UP TO ALL YOUR EXPECTATIONS? I AM ASKING THIS BECAUSE
EGYPT WAS VERY ACTIVE IN AN EXTREME RESOLUTION IN THE
SECURITY COUNCIL. IT HAS TRIED AND IS TRYING TO SABOTAGE
THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL
AND SPAIN. IS THIS THE SAME MODERATE EGYPT IT WAS ON THE
DAY OF THE SIGNING OF THE INTERIM SETTLEMENT?

(ANSWER) IN MOST CASES, MOST OF THE EXPECTATIONS, OR AT
LEAST MY EXPECTATIONS, FROM THE INTERIM AGREEMENT HAVE
BEEN FULFILLED. I DID NOT EXPECT IN ADVANCE A CHANGE IN
EGYPTIAN RHETORIC OR IN EGYPT'S POLITICAL AND MAIN AIMS.

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THE PURPOSE OF THE INTERIM SETTLEMENT WAS TO ENCOURAGE

PROCESSES WHOSE DEVELOPMENT, IF THEY DO IN FACT DEVELOP, I REGARD AS MOST IMPORTANT AS A BASIS FOR CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE AND REALITY WHICH WILL ADVANCE CALM AND WILL INCREASE THE CHANCES TO REACH A REAL PEACE ONE DAY. AND WHAT ARE THE PROCESSES AND WHAT ARE THEIR DIRECTION? THE FIRST TENDENCY IS TO REACH A STAGE WHICH WILL CREATE A SITUATION IN WHICH MORE ATTENTION, MORE RESOURCES IN EGYPT WILL BE DIRECTED TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. WE CAN, IN FACT, SEE THAT THE SUEZ CANAL IS BEING BUILT UP AND WIDENED ON A LARGE SCALE. THERE IS A CONTINUATION OF BUILDING IN THE CANAL TOWNS, AND MOST OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE CANAL TOWNS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO THEIR PLACES OF RESIDENCE. MOST OF THE REMARKS BY EGYPTIAN LEADERS, THE PRESS IN EGYPT, THE PUBLIC IN EGYPT, DEAL WITH DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS.

THE SECOND SUBJECT, THE EGYPTIAN TIE WITH THE USSR HAS BEEN WEAKENED, IF NOT ENDED. AS AN ARAB COUNTRY'S TIES WITH THE USSR DECLINE, THAT IS, AS THERE IS LESS SOVIET RESPONSE TO SUPPLY OF ARMS, SO DOES THAT COUNTRY'S RELIANCE ON THE MILITARY OPTION, ON THE USE OF WAR AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING ITS POLITICAL AIMS, ALSO DECLINE.

THE THIRD THING, THIS INEVITABLY BRINGS ABOUT A DECREASE IN THE ARMY OR A DECREASE IN ITS INCREASE. (AS HEARD) IN THE CASE OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMY, WE CAN SEE A DECLINE OF 30 PERCENT IN THE REGULAR ARMY COMPARED TO WHAT IT WAS AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE YOM KIPPUR WAR. WE CAN SEE THAT EGYPT HAS NOT REARMED ON THE SAME SCALE AS SYRIA, WITHOUT COMPARISON TO WHAT SYRIA RECEIVED, AND WE MUST ADD TO THIS THAT AT THE SAME TIME FACTS HAVE BEEN CREATED, EVEN IF THEY ARE SYMBOLIC, BUT THIS ALSO HAS A SIGNIFICANCE, OF THE PASSAGE OF GOODS TO AND FROM ISRAEL THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE AN OIL TANKER OPENLY PASSED THROUGH ON ITS WAY TO ISRAEL. WE CAN SEE A CREATED CALMNESS IN THE NEW LINES, AN ABILITY TO DECREASE THE NUMBER OF RESERVE SOLDIERS WHO WILL BE CALLED UP IN ORDER TO GUARD THESE LINES, AND IF WE ADD TO THIS THE EMBITTERMENT OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA AND AS A RESULT OF THIS, A LESSENING OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING THE SAME POLITICAL COORDINATION, AND CERTAINLY MILITARY COORDINATION BETWEEN THE TWO, THEN I THINK THAT THE FINAL CONCLUSION IS POSITIVE AND SINCE WE ARE SPEAKING ABOUT A PROCESS THEN IT IS ONLY AT ITS INCEPTION. I BELIEVE THAT THROUGH THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WE HAVE GIVEN A CHANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROCESS TO CHANGE THE REALITY WHICH, IF IT, IN FACT, DEVELOPS IN THE DIRECTION THAT IT IS DEVELOPING AT THE

MOMENT, IT WILL IN FACT BRING ABOUT THE CREATION OF A

SITUATION, NOT IMMEDIATELY AND NOT CERTAINLY, WHICH WILL
PROVIDE A CHANCE FOR TALKS ON PEACE, A REAL PEACE.

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